Pleurotus tuber-regium

Cap: funnel shaped, 30 – 250 mm diameter. Surface dry, felted in appearance, beige-brown, greyish brown or ochraceous. Cap margin distinctly inrolled.

Stipe: cylindrical, sturdy, 30 - 150 × 7 - 35 mm. Densely hairy with a basal matt of white fungal threads (mycelia) connecting stem with a small to large (50 – 250 mm), heavy, underground globular sclerotium, with brown covering and dense, chalky, white internal structure.

Gills: decurrent and extending well down onto stem, crowded, narrow, whitish-cream.

Flesh: white, firm, chalky.

Spores: white, cylindric, 7.5 – 10.5 × 3 – 4.5 μm.


Cheilocystidia: cylindrical to clavate, 20 – 45 × 3 – 7 μm, sometimes nodulose.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm.

Habitat: This fungus appears to grow from soil, but is probably attached to well-rotted underground wood. Mainly associated with A.auracaria forests and plantations but probably occurs in other subtropical rainforests.

Notes: This unusual gilled fungus grows from an underground food storage organ called a sclerotium. The sclerotium is thought to be formed during periods of stress, e.g. drought, and may take years to develop. Fruiting occurs when stress is relieved.

Collections examined:.